[CONFIDENTIAL FILES 1929 Consular Posts Beirut Lebanon Volume III]

[1 of 2]

RG84 RECORDS OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

Consular Posts

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Volume 471

NO. 100

110.2

CONFIDENTIAL

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

BEIRUT, SYRIA March 29, 1929.

SUBJECT: Return of Cipher Tables for Code A-1.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

1/ I have the honor to forward herewith by registered mail the following cipher tables for use with Code A-1, received by this office from time to time from the Department:

No.	70	- Effective	Jan. 1,1927	to	Mar. 31,1927
"	70	"	Apr. 1,1927	"	June 30,1927
"	71	"	July 1,1927	"	Sept.30,1927
"	72	"	Oct. 1,1927	"	Dec. 31,1927
"	72	"	Jan. 1,1928	"	Mar. 31,1928
"	72	"	Apr. 1,1928	"	June 30,1928
"	72	"	July 1,1928	"	Sept.30,1928
"	73	"	Oct. 1,1928	"	Dec. 31,1928

The last of these tables is the first one to bear the instruction that it be returned to the Department, by registered mail April 1, 1929, but it is presumed that the Department would wish also the return of the previous tables at this time so as to leave here only the current incoming tables until the date arrives for their return.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A true copy of the signed original N.T.

George L. Brandt,
Consul in Charge.

Enclosure:
1. Cipher tables for Code A-1.

File No. 110.2
GLB:HT

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

File B

110.2

May 7, 1929.

George L. Brandt, Esquire,

American Consul in Charge,

Beirut, Syria.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
MAY 31 1929
BEIRUT, SYRIA

Sir;

The receipt is hereby acknowledged of your despatch No. 100, dated March 29, 1929, together with the obsolete cipher tables therein mentioned.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For the Secretary of State:

David A. Salmon.

Chief, Bureau of Indexes and Archives.

119.255
183

NO. 159

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

BEIRUT, SYRIA July 1, 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Return of Cipher Table for Code A-1.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to return herewith by registered
1/ mail obsolete Cipher Table No. 74, effective January 1, 1929, to March 31, 1929, forwarded to this office by the Department.

This action is taken in compliance with the instruction on the front page of the Table.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

George L. Brandt,
Consul in Charge.

Enclosure:

1. Cipher Table No. 74.

File No. 110.2
GLB:HT

A true copy of the signed original HT

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File
B

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
SEP 3 - 1929
BEIRUT, SYRIA

110.2

August 7, 1929.

George L. Brandt, Esquire,
American Consul in Charge,
Beirut, Syria.

Sir:

The receipt is hereby acknowledged of your despatch No. 159, dated July 1, 1929, together with the obsolete cipher tables therein mentioned.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant
For the Secretary of State:

David A. Salmon.

Chief, Bureau of Indexes and Archives.

119.255
183

NO. 84

CONFIDENTIAL.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

BEIRUT, SYRIA February 28, 1929.

125.4

SUBJECT: Estimates for Contingent Expenses, Clerk Hire, etc., for fiscal year ending June 30, 1930.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to forward herewith estimates for
1/ contingent expenses, clerk hire, etcetera, for this Consulate General for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, prepared on Form No. 246, as directed by the Department's unnumbered mimeograph instruction of January 10, 1929 (File No. 125.04/506a).

The following statements are respectfully submitted in regard to such of the items as appear to call for explanatory comment:

CONTINGENT EXPENSES:

Books, etc., commercial reference: The allotment granted for the present year was $15.00. This amount is necessary each year for the purchase of itemized annual statistics of local imports and exports. An additional $5.00 is desired to purchase locally new maps of the country.

Uniforms: The allotment requested is the same ($250.00) as that granted for the present year, although

a

a saving for the present year of $50.03 has been reported, due to the receipt of old uniforms from the closed consulates at Damascus and Aleppo. It will be necessary, however, to purchase new uniform trousers and vest, with gold braid trimming, for the chief cavass for the coming winter, which will cost about $75.00, the simple winter uniforms for the other cavass, the messenger and office boy, and summer uniforms for all for 1930.

Flag, flagpole, etc.: Consul General Wilson, when inspecting the office in 1927, recommended that a new flagpole be purchased and placed in a more advantageous position than the present one. It is believed that the flagpole of the former consulate at Damascus, now here, can be utilized. It will have to be scraped, red-leaded and painted and installed, in a fitting position at the front of the building which will cost about $50.00, the amount requested.

Telegrams and cablegrams: It would appear from a review of expenditures in the past for this purpose that the sum of $300.00 is barely sufficient for normal needs throughout the year and that that amount will be exceeded whenever situations develop, requiring the use of the cables, that can not be foreseen but may be expected. Therefore, the allotment of $400.00 is requested.

Postage: For the year ended June 30, 1928, the sum of $287.79 was expended. The closure of the consulates at Aleppo and Damascus has increased the local correspondence of this office and this year the expenditures for postage

will

will certainly reach $350.00, which amount should be allotted for the coming year as a minimum.

Local transportation: The allotment requested, $200.00, is half of that granted for the present year, the economy being possible because of the use on official business of private cars belonging to the officers on duty here, without compensation.

Furnishing of light: With the high cost of electric current here, about $0.20 per kilowatt hour, the high ceilings and large inside rooms requiring considerable lighting and the very hot summers necessitating much use of the electric fans, $350.00 is as low a cost as can be estimated. This limit was exceeded the past fiscal year and will certainly be reached this year, although the present officer in charge, since his arrival, has installed lamps of lower electrical consumption but of greater efficiency, in an endeavor to economize.

Repair of buildings: $100.00 is asked for under this heading to provide for the cutting of a doorway from the general office room through a wall at the end of a corridor leading to the cashier's room so that the clerks may pass direct and not through the large outside waiting room, to the cashier's office; also for changing certain windows from colored to plain glass to afford better lighting and for painting several of the office rooms, particularly that of the principal officer the walls of which are now covered with dusty, worn-out printed cloth. The sum asked for will not meet the necessary expenditures for these items but it is proposed to have the proprietor of the

building

building bear a proportionate share of the expense.

Repair of furniture and fixtures, etc.: $50.00 is requested as about half of that amount is needed annually only for overhauling the typewriters.

Upkeep of garden: The amount requested is the same as that which has been granted for previous years, $60.00, and is for payment for the part-time services of a native gardener who looks after the garden bordering on two sides the consular offices.

Purchase of rugs: With the exception of two rugs, which are in good condition, the rugs now here are in bad shape and the majority are not worth repairing (see Inventory of October 1, 1928). The tile floors, large rooms and lack of heating facilities make rugs a very necessary furnishing for the office rooms. The allotment of $500.00 requested will, it is hoped, permit the purchase at least of one large and four medium-size rugs. The local purchase of Oriental rugs is to be preferred to shipment by the Department of American rugs to this office because of the superior wearing qualities of the former and their continued value with use. They would also be more in keeping with the style of the offices.

Translators, Interpreters, Guards, Messengers, and Janitors: An increase in compensation of $120.00 per annum is recommended for Mr. Garzouzi, Interpreter, and of $60.00 each for the two cavasses, the messenger and the office boy. In Mr. Garzouzi's case his loyalty to the office and to American interests, his influence in local governmental circles and his knowledge of local conditions make him a

valuable

valuable assistant, as has been represented before to the Department by Consul General Knabenshue, previously in charge here. In the case of Youssif Khabbaz, chief cavass, he has been many years on duty here, is loyal and faithful and has a very large family to support. The second cavass, Sabri Ouichek, was formerly on duty at the consulate at Damascus at the salary now recommended for him. He is young, speaks English and French well, is intelligent and very willing and has already proved himself to be a valuable addition to the staff here. Tewfik Hitti, the messenger, is not called upon for as high a standard of work as the other minor subordinate employees but he is improving in usefulness, showing commendable willingness and effort to carry out promptly and properly the orders given him. Emil Khabbaz, recently transferred from second cavass to office boy, has applied himself very well to the more advanced and useful duties given him. He assists his father, the chief cavass, in the support of his family.

If funds are not available to grant all the increases recommended, it is recommended that increases be granted to the four minor subordinates because they are in greater financial need than Mr. Carzouzi. Among those four, the chief cavass should receive first consideration, the office boy second, the second cavass third and the messenger fourth.

With reference to L. Manachy and J. Dabbous, dragomans on duty, respectively, at Aleppo and Damascus, whose employment was recommended by this Consulate General's despatch No. 2685 of June 8, 1928 and authorized by the Department's

instruction

instruction of August 18, 1928, their retention in the positions they occupy is very necessary for the proper and expeditious handling of matters previously concerning the former consulates at Aleppo and Damascus and now coming within the province of this Consulate General. They have well proved their own usefulness and the value of the suggestion for their employment by keeping this office in touch with events in their districts, by furnishing it with needed commercial and political information and by the helpful services they render, under the direction of this office, to Americans in the cities in which they are stationed. Without such representatives in Aleppo and Damascus it is believed that this Consulate General would be seriously handicapped in properly carrying on the business of its increased district.

CLERK HIRE:

Mr. McGonigal, Vice Consul and clerk, takes his full share of the work of the officers here and performs it in a highly commendable manner. He has charge of the very important commercial work of the office, and the invoice, shipping and notarial work. His willingness, attention to duty and interest in his work, particularly at a time such as the present when the work of the office is very heavy and there is insufficient personnel, make him a most desirable assistant. He is intelligent and capable and does his work quietly, efficiently and rapidly. For these reasons alone he merits the increase in compensation to the amount recommended. It may, however, be further urged in his be-

half

half that he is married, has one child and his wife expects another shortly and that a salary of $2500.00 per annum is the very minimum at which he can live and support his family here comfortably. During the hot summers here he must, as others do, take his family to the mountains and go back and forth daily to work or else maintain two separate houses. Attention is invited to similar recommendations made in Mr. McGonigal's behalf by his former chiefs, Consul Keeley at Damascus and Consul General Knabenshue at Beirut (see the latter's despatch of August 11, 1928).

Miss Humphrey, American clerk, acts as cashier, handles the fees, and prepares the accounts and the shipping papers and notarial documents for signature. She has also recently been given charge of the stationery and telephone switchboard and her time is fully occupied. She is an experienced member of the staff and a valuable clerk, particularly in the main position she occupies.

Mr. McGonigal should receive consideration over Miss Humphrey if funds to make both increases are not available.

It is sincerely hoped that a change may be made in the existing law so as to permit an increase in salary over $1000.00 to be paid alien clerks. The alien clerks here who are receiving the maximum salary under the law are faithful, hardworking and highly efficient employees and it is deeply regretted that they can not be recommended for salary increases which they well merit.

One additional American clerk (stenographer) at an annual salary of $1800.00 has been requested in the attached

estimate,

estimate, for whom there is great need. Until July of last year this office had such a stenographer, the late Mrs. Saleeby. The Department is, of course, aware of the fact that the business of this office has been very much increased by the closure of the consulates at Damascus and Aleppo and also that there has been an increase of only one employee over the number previously on duty at this Consulate General. Every effort has been made so to apportion, systematize and order the work as to make it possible to cope with it with the present force but even with considerable overtime put in by all the members of the staff it can not be kept from accumulating. Besides, there is still a great amount of work in arrears to be done and letters await answering that were dated as far back as June, 1928. It is only possible to reduce this work by neglecting incoming work which may be less urgent. An American stenographer, preferably a woman, is particularly necessary because of the amount of confidential work there is to do here which must now be typed by the officers themselves. The need of such an additional employee becomes more imperative by reason of the continued absence from the office of Miss Amy Nixon, experienced alien clerk, who has been very ill since October last and who, it is doubtful, will ever regain her former usefulness because of a serious operation she underwent in October. Were another employee to fall sick at present the situation would become most difficult. There is also to be considered that all the employees should be given leave during the hot and unhealthy summer here when, as it appears, the work becomes heavier. The request for

this

this additional employee is thoroughly justified by the condition of the work here and the need is becoming urgent. It is hoped, therefore, that the Department may be able to give early and favorable consideration to the request.

IMMIGRATION FUND:

The time of Philip Khuri and L. N. Kasparian, alien clerks at $960.00 each per annum, now paid from Clerk Hire is fully taken up with immigration work, taking visa applications and preparing visas for signature, keeping the visa files and taking dictation of and typing visa letters. Their salaries are therefore more properly payable from the Immigration Fund. Their payment from that Fund will result in a saving of $1920.00 per annum in the allotment now made for Clerk Hire to this office. A separate estim-
2/ ate on Form No. 246 headed "Immigration Fund" is submitted to cover these proposed changes.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

George L. Brandt,
Consul in Charge.

Enclosures as stated.

GLB:HT

A true copy of the signed original H.T.

No. 279—Foreign Service
Corrected Feb., 1929

CONDITION OF FINANCES AND ESTIMATES OF NEEDS

~~Embassy~~
~~Legation~~
Consulate General } at Beirut, Syria   July 24, 1929.
(Date)

CONTINGENT EXPENSES
(Use separate sheet for Immigration Fund)

NOTE.—This form to be completed and mailed to the Department at close of third quarter, March 31, IN DUPLICATE.	EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 1928	CURRENT YEAR Disbursed to March 31, 1929	CURRENT YEAR Estimated Needs Fourth Quarter (D)	ESTIMATED NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 1930 (A)	ESTIMATED NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 1931
01 Personal services, messengers, janitors, translators, etc. (attach itemized list)	$ 3380.01	3418.34	1095.00	4740.00	5060.00
02 Supplies and materials:					
Stationery and supplies	29.18	12.71	8.95	25.00	25.00
Cleaning and toilet	30.38	26.79	8.21	30.00	30.00
Newspapers	36.50	50.29	Nil	50.00	50.00
Fuel	87.39	78.34	Nil	90.00	90.00
Uniforms	244.26	95.40	104.57	250.00	300.00
Ice and water (footnote B)	13.32	7.45	6.00	20.00	20.00
Flags and flagstaffs	Nil	Nil	Nil	50.00	10.00
05 Communications services:					
Telegraph service	299.38	239.10	50.00	400.00	400.00
Telephone service	106.61	111.46	5.00	125.00	125.00
Postage, P. O. boxes	292.08	271.08	81.72	355.00	405.00
06 Travel expenses (footnote C):					
Transportation	Nil	Nil	25.00	50.00	100.00
Local transportation	235.25	158.06	20.58	200.00	200.00
Subsistence	Nil	Nil	50.00	50.00	100.00
07 Transportation of things:					
Freight and drayage	32.21	19.91	4.59	30.00	30.00
Express	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Customs charges	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
09 Advertising, publication notices	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10 Services (footnote B):					
Heat service	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Light service	358.39	305.76	90.00	350.00	350.00
Water service	42.47	36.08	10.00	45.00	45.00
11 Rent	1500.00	1125.00	375.00	2000.00	2000.00
12 Repairs:					
To Government-owned buildings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
To other buildings	30.38	14.37	10.63	100.00	100.00
To furniture and fixtures	22.35	40.30	30.00	50.00	100.00
13 Special and miscellaneous:					
Rates and taxes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30 Equipment:					
Furniture, furnishings, etc.	32.63	56.62	16.02	525.00	525.00
Typewriters	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	500.00
Books	35.21	15.01	5.00	20.00	50.00
Upkeep of garden	60.00	45.00	15.00	60.00	80.00
TOTALS	6868.00	6127.07	2011.27	9615.00	10695.00

	DISBURSED TO MARCH 31, 1929	ESTIMATED NEEDS FOURTH QUARTER (D)	ESTIMATED NEEDS 1930 (A)	ESTIMATED NEEDS 1931	DISBURSED BY DEPARTMENT TO ABSENTEE (E)
Salaries, Ambassadors and Ministers (E)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Extra compensation from Chargé appropriation for Chargé or Vice Consul in charge	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clerks, Diplomatic Service (E)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clerks, Consular Service (E), from regular fund	$7874.95	2690.00	10960.00	12940.00	Nil
Clerks, Consular Service (E), from Immigration fund	Nil	Nil	1920.00	1920.00	Nil
Salaries, Foreign Service officers (E)	8804.86	3000.00	12500.00	14500.00	1069.45
Post allowance	722.23	250.00	1500.00	2000.00	Nil
Printing and binding:					
Printing	10.15	---	25.00	25.00	Nil
Binding	---	64.85	75.00	75.00	Nil
Relief of seamen	69.97	Nil	100.00	100.00	Nil
Loss by exchange	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(A) This column should be identical with the estimate submitted to the Department with Form No. 246 for the fiscal year 1930, *unless additional needs have now developed,* in which case they should be fully explained.
(B) Ice and water included in 02 is for purchases as distinguished from heat and water contracted for, which is under 10.
(C) This includes only expenditures for travel *paid from contingent appropriation,* and not those paid from transportation appropriation.
(D) This column should include outstanding bills and accounts.
(E) In case any portion of compensation is paid to an officer while absent from his post by the Department or other office, a statement to that effect, showing the amount so paid, should be included in last column.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED OFFICES.—Segregation to be made at those places only where there are Government-owned offices and/or residences. Where quarters are combined, the amount of the compensation of the employees should be apportioned according to time occupied in each and the cost of other services for each should likewise be carefully estimated. **These amounts are not in addition to those mentioned opposite the appropriate headings on the face of this form.**

		EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 1928	CURRENT YEAR		ESTIMATED NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 1930 (A)	ESTIMATED NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 1931
			Disbursed to March 31, 1929	Estimated Needs for Fourth Quarter (D)		
01 Custodial services	Office					
	Residence					
02 Fuel	Office					
	Residence					
10 Heat services	Office					
	Residence					
Light services	Office					
	Residence					
Water services	Office		Not Government-owned Office			
	Residence					
12 Repairs to buildings	Office					
	Residence					
Repairs to furniture, etc.	Office					
	Residence					
13 Rates and taxes	Office					
	Residence					
30 Purchase, furniture, fixtures, furnishings, etc.	Office					
	Residence					

This form, IN DUPLICATE, should be furnished by each office and by each dispatch agent and each inspector covering inspection services, so as to reach the Department by May 31.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

01 <u>Personal services, messengers, janitors, translators, etc.:-</u> In order to bring the salaries of these employees up to the increase in cost of living here and properly to compensate them for their work, it is recommended that the interpreter be given an increase of $120.00 per annum for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1930, and an additional increase of $80.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1931; the two cavasses, messenger and office boys, to be increased in salary by $60.00 per annum each for each of the two years.

02 <u>Supplies and materials:-</u> Estimates cover normal expenditures.

05 <u>Communications services:-</u> Estimates cover normal expenditures.

06 <u>Travel expenses:-</u> Estimates cover normal expenditures, except that the allowance for transportation and subsistence for 1931 be doubled to permit more frequent and necessary visits of officers assigned to duty at this Consulate General throughout the consular district, comprising the whole country, to collect information regarding political, commercial and other conditions, needed for the preparation of reports and replies to

trade

trade inquiries which can not be obtained as satisfactorily in any other way.

07 Transportation of things:- Estimates cover normal expenditures.

09 Advertising, publication notices:- No allowance required.

10 Services:- Estimates cover normal expenditures.

11 Rent:- The rent of the consular building here is $2000.00 per annum of which the principal officer occupying the residential portion pays one quarter. It is recommended that quarters be furnished rent-free to the officer, under authority granted by the act making appropriations for the Foreign Service for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1930, since the post is one having functions of a diplomatic nature and the officer is required to maintain a larger and more expensive establishment than would be necessary at a purely consular post. Moreover he must, as is the custom and need here, rent a summer house for his family in the mountains to escape the unhealthy summer climate of the city. An increase in the allowance for rent of $500.00 is therefore recommended.

12 Repairs:- Estimates cover normal expenditures.

13 Special and miscellaneous:- No allowance required.

30 Equipment:- The sum of $525.00 is desired under the heading of "Furniture, furnishings, etc." for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1930, to permit the local purchase mainly of rugs for the office as the rugs now here are in bad shape and the majority are not

worth

worth repairing. An equal appropriation is desired for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1931, to cover mainly office furniture to be furnished by the Department of State, for needed replacement of articles now in use. Under the heading of "Typewriters" the sum of $500.00 is requested for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1931, to cover five new typewriters to be furnished by the Department in replacement of old machines. Under the heading of "Books" the amounts of $60.00 and $80.00 respectively for the two fiscal years in question are requested mainly to permit a wider purchase of reference books on the Near East in which the consular library here is deficient.

-- Up-keep of garden:- An increase of $20.00 in 1931 over previous years is desired to improve the appearance of the garden of the consular building.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

CLERKS, CONSULAR SERVICE.

Increases in the salaries paid Donal F. McGonigal, American Vice Consul and clerk, and Miss Daisy Humphrey, American clerk, from $2300.00 to $2500.00 and from $1800.00 to $1920.00, respectively, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1930, are recommended on account of their value to the office and to bring their official income up to the cost of living here. The appointment of an additional American stenographer and clerk at $1800.00 per annum is also recommended, to replace a former stenographer who died last year. The appointment of two additional alien clerks at $960.00 each per annum is recommended for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1931, and also the merited promotion of one alien clerk by $60.00 per year. Should the law be changed so as to permit the payment of salaries to alien clerks in excess of $1000.00 per year, this Consulate General will desire to submit recommendations for increases in the salaries of its alien clerks, who by their efficient service and attention to duty generally would merit promotion. The additions to the staff recommended are the minimum which will enable this office to function properly with the increase of work resulting from the closure of the former

Consulates

Consulates at Damascus and Aleppo. The pressure of that work is now being felt to an extent that makes it necessary for all employees to put in considerable overtime in coping with it and even then it can not be kept from accumulating.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

CLERKS, CONSULAR SERVICE, FROM IMMIGRATION FUND.

Since the time of two alien clerks, Philip Khuri and Leon Kasparian, at $960.00 each per annum, now paid from the appropriation for clerk hire, is fully taken up with immigration work it is recommended that for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1930, their salaries would be more properly payable from the immigration fund.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

SALARIES, FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

The amount recommended for 1930 will cover the salaries of the three consular officers on duty at this office at present, one at $5000.00, one at $4000.00 and one at $3500.00 per annum. The amount for 1931 is estimated to cover salaries for four career officers, one Consul at $5000.00 and one at $4000.00 and one Vice Consul at $3000.00 and another at $2500.00 per annum. The extra officer is necessary to enable this office to realize the exceptional opportunities which exist here for political, commercial and other reporting work of interest and value to the United States and to enable it to cope with the daily work of its large district now comprising the whole country, since the closure of two former consulates here. With the present staff of three career officers it is reasonable to assume that one officer will be absent on home leave for four months, including travel time, each year, leaving only two career officers assisted by a clerk Vice Consul, who must have their simple leave of one month each if they are to continue in good health in this climate. During such time as officers are on leave it is only possible for those remaining to handle the most pressing work of the office and accumulation of work results; and with the

return

return of officers to duty, their number is barely sufficient to dispose of that accumulation and to handle the daily work, leaving insufficient time for them to do constructive work. Under the present circumstances the principal officer is obliged to handle a large share of miscellaneous correspondence and assume part of the burden of the routine work here, which could and should be handled by a subordinate officer, leaving the principal officer with time for making and maintaining local contacts, for necessary study of local conditions and for reporting thereon, in addition to his administrative and supervisory duties.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

POST ALLOWANCE.

The amount recommended for post allowance for 1930 and 1931 is intended to cover, for the first of these years, an allowance to the principal officer of $300.00 in addition to his being furnished with quarters in the consular building free of rent, representing $500.00; of $700.00 for the senior subordinate officer and of $250.00 each for the remaining two subordinate officers. For the second of the years mentioned the estimate will cover the post allowance of $500.00 per year for each of the four career officers on duty. These amounts are deemed necessary to permit the officers to live here on their official income. They are obliged to incur an extraordinary expense here in that they must, for the health of themselves and their families, rent a house in the mountains during the hot and humid summers here, in addition to maintaining their city residence.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

PRINTING AND BINDING.

The amounts estimated for printing are the same as those allowed for previous years. Increase in the allotment for binding over previous years, from $50.00 to $75.00, is recommended to cover the binding of constantly increasing correspondence.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

RELIEF OF SEAMEN.

The estimated needs for 1930 and 1931 have been placed at the low figure of $100.00 per annum, being based upon previous annual expenditures and the fact that no change is foreseen affecting American shipping here which would point toward any increase of expenditures for the relief of seamen.

(Accompanying Form No. 279 - Foreign Service "Condition of Finances and Estimates of Needs" from American Consulate General at Beirut, Syria, dated July 24, 1929.)

ITEMIZED LIST OF
MESSENGERS, JANITRESS, TRANSLATORS, ETC.

Name	Present Salary	Estimated Needs Fiscal Year 1930	Estimated Needs Fiscal Year 1931
A. Garzouzi Interpreter	$ 1800.00	1920.00	2000.00
Y. Khabbaz First Cavass	600.00	660.00	720.00
S. Ouichek Second Cavass	360.00	420.00	480.00
E. Khabbaz Office Boy	360.00	420.00	480.00
T. Hitti Messenger	360.00	420.00	480.00
Wadieh Nahoud Janitress	180.00	180.00	180.00
L. Y. Manachy Dragoman at Aleppo	360.00	360.00	360.00
J. Dabbouss Dragoman at Damascus	360.00	360.00	360.00
TOTALS:	$ 4380.00	4740.00	5060.00

NO. 200

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

BEIRUT, SYRIA September 11, 1929.

125.6

SUBJECT: Transfer of Consul Harry L. Troutman and insufficiency of consular staff at Beirut.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

See preceding personal letter to Mr. Shaw accompanying B

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram of August 28, 1929, 8.00 p.m., ordering Consul Harry L. Troutman of this office to duty at the Consulate General at Jerusalem and to my telegram of September 5, 1929, 12.00 noon, reporting that Consul Troutman was leaving the same day for Jerusalem.

In my telegram I asked the Department to consider the force on duty here, particularly in view of the present disturbed condition of this country, as compared with that on duty before the work of the former Consulates at Aleppo and Damascus was taken over and to return Consul Troutman to duty here as soon as the emergency in Jerusalem had ceased, or to replace him, and to authorize the employment of an extra clerk as soon as possible.

I have previously this year, by mail and by telegraph, asked the Department for additional assistance and the Department has advised me that it was unable to grant my requests but the serious situation which is developing here by reason of the continued insufficiency of staff to accomplish the work, and

which

which is aggravated by the loss of Consul Troutman's efficient services, particularly while another officer is on home leave, made it imperative that I should wire the Department again.

I beg the Department to consider that the work of this office was greatly increased on July 1, 1928, by the closure of the Consulates at Aleppo and Damascus when all consular work was concentrated here, and that the staff on duty at Beirut has only been equal to, or exceeded at times by one and never more than two persons, that on duty here when this office was one of three in the country, although the change resulted in a saving of the services of two consuls, one American clerk, four alien clerks and a dragoman, besides four cawasses. While very good reasons are to be advanced from the point of view of efficient service for the concentration of the work here it could not result in a reduction in the total number of invoices to be consulated, passport and registration applications to be taken, visas to be issued, World Trade Directory Reports to be prepared, and of other services as previously performed by the three offices which constitute the bulk of the work. Moreover, it has followed that the work coming from the former Aleppo and Damascus consular districts presents less facility of accomplishment, even with the part-time services of the Dragomans at Aleppo and Damascus, than when it was dealt with by the Consulates there by reason of the fact that much of it must now be handled by cor-

respondence

respondence instead of by personal contact. In this connection reference is made to invoices, the great majority of which come from Aleppo and Damascus, to visa and citizenship cases requiring investigation and to the commercial work now extended to cover the whole country.

Furthermore, the work here frequently requires an exceptional amount of time and effort to perform. There is hardly a passport case in which an Affidavit to Overcome the Presumption of Expatriation does not have to be prepared with a long opinion, arrived at after an exhaustive examination, stated on the reverse. A great many of the visa cases are presented by applicants well acquainted with the laws and procedure and determined upon fraud to obtain visas, assisted by friends and relatives in the United States and even by officials here, who must be carefully examined. Protection cases, on account of the extensive and important American interests here, are numerous and frequently demand serious attention and much patient work that can seldom reveal itself to the Department. In the commercial work the collection of statistics and information in this country, with its lack of commercial publications and of large establishments, is attended with considerable difficulty.

I beg the Department to note also, that although it has been crippled by the absence on home leave of two officers within a year, the absence of one being extended by a long ocean voyage which I know he did

not

not wish and by a month's temporary duty at another office after his arrival home, by the illness of one clerk for four months whose efficiency and capacity for work remains affected thereby, and by the loss of an experienced American stenographer capable of answering a great deal of correspondence on her own initiative, the force on duty, by exerting their maximum effort and by excessive overtime, have effected a considerable increase in the output of work as a comparison of the Summaries of Business for the past two fiscal years will show. In Invoices Services there was an increase from 280 to 1153 or about 400 per cent, in Passport Services from 599 to 739 or 25 per cent, Visa Services from 801 to 1222 or 50 per cent and in other Fee Services from 759 to 1193 or 50 per cent. Total Fees collected show an increase from $7,052.75 to $11,388.25 or over 50 per cent. The number of communications received increased from 4379 to 6499 or 50 per cent and the increase in those sent was from 6033 to 7534 or 25 per cent. In the Commercial work the increase in Replies to Trade Inquiries was from 178 to 463 or 260 per cent and in World Trade Directory Reports from 139 to 340 or about 240 per cent. There were written during the past year 16 less Trade Reports and recorded 44 less interviews with American business men and there was no correspondence coming in from subordinate offices to transmit but in no other branch of the work did any reduction occur.

It

It remains impossible, however, for the staff to cope with the work and callers are delayed in being interviewed, sometimes from one day to another, unanswered correspondence has accumulated and is accumulating to a serious extent, work can not be done with sufficient care and much that is important must be neglected.

The work of the office fully requires, besides the principal officer, one officer for the commercial work alone, another for the general office work and to act as executive officer, and another officer to assist the latter mainly on visa and citizenship work. Vice Consul Stogsdall, recently assigned with only a very brief period of training in the Department, can not act as one of such officers for the present. Later she may afford, while doing the special and important work which the Department desires of her, an amount of additional assistance that will enable the office to improve its efficiency and to operate satisfactorily when other officers are on leave throughout the year.

It requires immediately another clerk simply for typing correspondence which is being delayed and for which the present force has no time. Two clerks are employed on commercial work, two on visa work, one as stenographer and one on passport and registration work, one on filing and mailing, and one on accounts, shipping, notarials, etc. The Department may recall that with its approval, I transferred one cawass shortly after I assumed charge, to duty as office boy

in order to obtain a measure of extra office assistance without an increase of staff. There are no other beneficial changes which can be made nor can I further order the work to save labor. I asked the Department previously this year for an American stenographer and subsequently for an experienced alien clerk from the former Aleppo Consulate who was available. To place the office on a working basis that would approach an efficient one, the employment of both is really necessary.

In this connection I beg to invite the Department's attention to Consul General Knabenshue's despatch No. 2721 of August 11, 1928, requesting an increase in the allotment for traveling expenses to permit a commissioned officer, accompanied by a dragoman, to make a survey of the entire district at the end of each quarter which he considered to be expedient, as he had previously recommended, for the proper performance of the work. He stated therein that in making his recommendations for the closing of the Consulates at Aleppo and Damascus and the consolidation of the work at this office he had been "guided by the thought that given the proper staff and allotments this office could accomplish more efficiently the work done by the three offices," that "with the exception of certain changes in the staff of this office, no provision seems to have been made for the increased responsibilities, and hence increased expenses, devolving upon the Consulate General as a

result

result of the supression of the Consulates at Aleppo and Damascus," that the indications were that within two months the available staff of the Consulate General would be "exactly the same numerically as before the amalgamation with the difference that there will be one commissioned officer and one American clerk less," and that he would leave to me, his successor, the submission of further recommendations than those which might come to his attention.

I understand that the Department is handicapped in filling requests for additional assistance by a shortage of officers and of funds but if it is at all possible for it to consider urgent needs I beg that it give its most sympathetic consideration to those of this office. If not, it remains only for me to ask that it view the work of this office and my administration of it in the light of the conditions existing here as I have endeavored clearly to set them forth in this despatch.

I may add that from my own personal standpoint, the situation is most discouraging. While I feel that much has been accomplished in increasing the output of work with the force at my disposal, in working off a great accumulation of correspondence unanswered since June 1, 1928 which I took over from my predecessor and in effecting the consolidation of the work and files of the three offices, particularly the visa files comprising over ten thousand cases, I have been obliged to handle so much of the general or routine

work

work of the office, including the miscellaneous correspondence, to keep it moving or because it was pressing, since I could not pass it on to subordinate officers already overburdened, one with commercial and the other with visa and citizenship work, that I have had little or no time for proper study of my district and its affairs, for reporting on many matters of interest to the Department, which come up at this particular post, for other work of a constructive nature or for making and maintaining sufficient of those local contacts which are essential to a proper conduct of the office. These I recognize to be highly important duties of the principal officer and I have every desire to perform them to the best of my ability.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. L. BRANDT

George L. Brandt,
Consul in Charge.

125.6
GLB:HT

A true copy of the signed original HT

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

BEIRUT, SYRIA September 11, 1929.

G. Howland Shaw, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Shaw:

The time has come when I must take advantage of the kind invitation you gave me before I left Washington to write you whenever I wished concerning conditions here. I am sending to the Department today a despatch presenting the situation here with respect to work and personnel and requesting that assistance in the office be promptly furnished me as the need therefor is serious, especially because of Consul Troutman's transfer to Jerusalem. May I ask you please to see that the despatch comes quickly to you and to give it your most favorable consideration?

I hope I may not incur your displeasure if I say that it is incomprehensible to me that the personnel needs of this office, arising from a considerable increase in its work that was obviously bound to follow its taking over the work of the two former consulates in the country, have so failed of recognition that I was about to be left with only one subordinate officer shortly after I assumed charge and was only able to obtain another by the commissioning of one of the staff already on duty, that one of my two subordinates having home leave within a year was assigned to temporary duty elsewhere, that I am now left with only one experienced officer, the other being new in the Service, and still with only one American clerk when the office before the consolidation had two experienced career officers and three American clerks, and that I have only been permitted to employ one more clerk. The shortage of officers has thrown a burden upon Keeley and myself,

remaining

remaining on duty, which is seriously taxing our physical endurance. We have worked long after hours every day and have had no time for any relaxation or study. When McGonigal returns Keeley must have local leave, and later home leave, and I should also have leave if only to enable me to visit my district, so that the shortage will continue, since Miss Stogsdall is inexperienced and needs training. Moreover, since Mr. McGonigal's health was not good when he left here it may be a question as to whether he can stand up under a heavy burden of work and I presume, too, that he will want to study for his written examination for the Service which I understand he is to take in January.

The clerks also are working under a strain that must prove detrimental to their health and to the work although I have endeavored to delay such eventuality by giving them leave in turn from the beginning of the hot weather.

I am by no means unmindful of the indulgence with which you have favored me when you have had every reason to feel that there has been, since I assumed charge here, a dearth of the kind of news in which your Division stands of need and which you were getting before. I can only assure you that while my ability to furnish such news may still be subject to demonstration, I have not failed to put myself to the test because of any disinclination or lack of appreciation of the opportunities which exist therefor.

From other viewpoints both my wife and I have reason to feel that we were correct in our estimate of the pleasures of living in Beirut. The agreeable climate, the convenient living quarters above the office and availability of a nearby summer home in the mountains, the possibility of living within our income and the proximity of interesting places to visit, make it a desirable consular post. The work seems to me important and it is interesting so that I have only to wish for the office assistance I have requested.

With kindest regards and sincere good wishes, I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

GEO. L. BRANDT

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1929.

My dear Brandt:

Miss Stogsdall, who has just been assigned to your office as Vice Consul, is being sent to you for two purposes: first of all, of course, to do such part of the regular work of the office as you think it wise to entrust to her and in the second place to try her hand at gathering material for and preparing reports on sociological, as distinguished from political and economic, subjects. As you are aware the Near East has in recent years been the scene of revolutionary social changes; old customs and beliefs have been pushed aside and abandoned in favor of what has been somewhat vaguely called Westernization. The Department has in general been kept informed of these developments, but usually in a superficial, not to say, perfunctory manner. Nothing has been done in the way of careful and systematic study. We shall be exceedingly interested to see what Miss Stogsdall can do in this particular field of Foreign Service work. She is well qualified for

such

George L. Brandt, Esquire,
American Consul,
Beirut, Syria.

such work; she is a graduate of Wellesley College and holds a Master's degree from Columbia University. She has had experience in research work. I shall be glad if you will afford Miss Stogsdall such opportunities for the type of work described in this letter as the regular activities of your office will permit and also put her in touch with persons, whether at the American University or elsewhere, who might be of assistance to her.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

[signature]

Beirut, Syria,
October 12, 1929.

Dear Mr. Carr:

I should have acknowledged long before this the receipt of your kind personal letter of July 6, 1929 advising me of the assignment to my office of Miss Stogsdall as Vice Consul for regular office work and also to gather material for and prepare reports on sociological subjects. But I have had many things to do and I hope you will forgive me.

Miss Stogsdall arrived here on August 22nd and Mrs. Brandt and I had her to stay with us for a week or so until she could get settled. She is at present comfortably installed in the apartment formerly occupied by Troutman.

She is very likeable and has begun rapidly to make friends. I had no choice, on account of office conditions, other than to put her on visa and passport work but I should probably have done so anyway as that work will most quickly give her valuable knowledge of the local people. She has, of course, much to learn and I am not attempting for the present to form an opinion as to her ability. I may say, however, that she seems self-reliant and has taken a serious interest in the work and that she is doing her best to fill the vacancy created by Troutman's transfer. Just now she and I are carrying on the work of the office as Keeley is off on a short vacation and McGonigal will not arrive until October 17th.

I can well appreciate the Department's need to be kept informed upon the social changes taking place in the Near East as having an important bearing upon our relations with the peoples of these countries and I note what you say regarding Miss Stogsdall's qualifications for studying and reporting on them. Please let me assure you that I shall be very glad to give her every possible opportunity and encouragement for that important work. Under present conditions, however, I can not give her much time away from the regular work of the office during office hours but I am no longer requiring overtime work of the staff, except in an emergency, and she will no doubt make good use of her free time after office hours to meet people and to study and thus to prepare herself, at least, for her special work.

With thanks for your good wishes and with kindest regards, I beg to remain

Yours very sincerely,

G. W. Brandt

COPY FOR CONSULATE GENERAL, BEIRUT.

No. 9819

Paris, September 6, 1929.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

With further reference to my despatch No.9793 of August 27, 1929, and to previous correspondence concerning customs franchise extended to American religious and philanthropic institutions in Syria and the Lebanon, I have the honor to inform the Department that, in a conversation which I had with M. Corbin at the Foreign Office on September 3 last, I had occasion to refer once more to this matter.

I called M. Corbin's attention to the Foreign Office note of August 22, 1929, adding that from its wording it appeared to be in reply to the Embassy's note No.5620 of August 19, 1925, (based upon the Department's Instruction

No.1648

No.1648 of August 6,1925), rather than to the proposal submitted by Mr. Knabenshue to M. Hoppenot now almost a year ago. I reminded M. Corbin that on January 11 last I called upon him and explained to him Mr. Knabenshue's proposals, as contained in Mr. Knabenshue's letter to M. Hoppenot of August 30,1928, with which proposals M. Hoppenot appeared to be in accord as stated in his reply to Mr. Knabenshue of September 1928; that M. Corbin had made notes of the points raised in Mr. Knabenshue's letter and had promised to have the matter taken up with the High Commission with a view to seeing what could be done to meet our Government's desires.

M. Corbin replied that he remembered very distinctly the conversation but that the records of the Foreign Office did not appear to contain a complete draft of Mr. Knabenshue's proposals as M. Hoppenot had apparently not submitted a full report on the question. I accordingly handed to M. Corbin the Embassy's file copy of Mr. Knabenshue's letter to M. Hoppenot of August 30,1928, as well as a copy of M. Hoppenot's reply. I remarked that he would notice from M. Hoppenot's letter that the latter made the definite statement that if Mr. Knabenshue succeeded in obtaining the Italian Government's consent to the proposal, the adoption of the project would immediately be made possible.

M. Corbin seemed to be somewhat embarrassed by this definite commitment on the part of M. Hoppenot, but remarked that it was a conditional rather than a definite agreement and that the Italian Government's consent had, so far as he knew, never been obtained. He then went on to say that, as he understood it, our original request was based upon France's agreement with Italy; that the promises contained in M.

Poincaré's

Poincaré's letter to Mr. Herrick of November 2,1923, referred to this agreement and that, as the American institutions in Syria were receiving treatment similar to that accorded Italian institutions, he did not see that our Government could very well complain. He reiterated what he had said in our previous talk - a similar statement is made in the Foreign Office note - that the system at present in force in Syria is the same as that in effect in all the territories in the Levant under mandate and is the same as that applied by the British in Palestine. M. Corbin also said that American institutions in Syria and the Levant were on a very large scale; that their requirements had been steadily increasing and that to permit free entry on all articles would probably be objected to by the local population, to say nothing of the fact that similar courtesies would then have to be extended to institutions of other nationalities, including French philanthropic institutions. (Remembering the statement contained in Mr. Knabenshue's despatch to the Department No.1606 of October 1,1924, Page 5, Paragraph 2, that "French institutions, surreptitiously if not almost openly, receive free entry of all goods imported by them" I was tempted to ask M. Corbin whether the same restrictions were applied to French institutions as to those of the United States and other countries, but I contented myself with remarking that I hoped that, in spite of the objections brought out by him, the French Government would be willing to give further study to the matter with a view to the acceptance of a plan similar to that suggested by Mr. Knabenshue).

During the course of the conversation, M. Corbin

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brought out the fact that M. Maugras, mentioned in Mr. Knabenshue's despatch No.2763 of September 25,1928, as well as in M. Hoppenot's reply to Mr. Knabenshue, is not, as I had thought he was, identical with the M. Maugras at present attached to the African and Levant Section of the Foreign Office. (See my despatch No.9793, August 27,1929, Page 3, Paragraph 1). It appears that M. Maugras of the Foreign Office was previously stationed in Constantinople but has never been attached to the High Commission in Syria.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SIGNED) NORMAN ARMOUR.

Norman Armour.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

In quintuplicate.

COPY TO CONSULATE GENERAL, BEIRUT.

In reply refer to
File No. 611.0031/298

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

July 3, 1929.

DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST AMERICAN COMMERCE.

To

Certain American Consular Officers.

Sirs:

Referring to the Department's circular instruction of February 13, 1923, to American Consular Officers, requesting on behalf of the United States Tariff Commission reports on "Discriminations against American Commerce", the Department has received from the Chairman of the Tariff Commission a letter dated June 4, 1929, enclosing a further questionnaire on this subject, copies of which are sent you herewith. The Chairman of the Tariff Commission states that under Section 317 of the Tariff Act of 1922 it is the duty of the United States Tariff Commission to ascertain and at all times to be informed whether any of the discriminations provided against in that section are being practiced by any foreign country, and requests the Department's cooperation through its foreign representatives in obtaining this information. The Department understands that for the present the Tariff Commission does not require information regarding discriminations by a country in favor of its own colonies or by colonies in favor of their mother countries.

Diplomatic and Consular Officers to whom the Department is sending this instruction are requested as soon as practicable to submit for the countries in which they are respectively stationed a report giving all available information in answer to the questions propounded in the enclosed questionnaire, and from time to time thereafter to submit supplementary reports giving such further information on these subjects as may have come to their attention. To the extent that it is found necessary or desirable to do so such information should be obtained with the cooperation and assistance of other American diplomatic or consular officers stationed in the country covered by the reports.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

For the Secretary of State:

W. R. CASTLE, Jr.

Enclosure:
Copy of questionnaire.

Consulate File No. 631.

TO AMERICAN CONSULATES AT

Aden (1)
Addis Ababa (1)
Algiers (2)
Amsterdam (4)
Antwerp (3)
Asuncion (1)
Athens (4)
Baghdad (1)
Bangkok (1)
Barranquilla (6)
Barbados (3)
Barcelona (9)
Batavia (3)
Beirut (1)
Belfast (1)
Belgrade (2)
Belize (1)
Berlin (11)
Bucharest (1)
Budapest (1)
Buenos Aires (2)
Cairo (4)
Calcutta (4)
Callao-Lima (6)
Cape Town (5)
Caracas (5)
Colombo (1)
Constantinople (2)
Copenhagen (1)
Corinto (3)
Curacao (1)
Dairen (1)
Dakar (1)
Danzig (1)
Dublin (2)
Funchal (1)
Georgetown (2)
Gibraltar (1)
Guadeloupe (1)
Guatemala (2)
Guayaquil (3)
Habana (10)
Hamilton, Bermuda (2)
Helsingfors (1)
Hongkong (1)
Jerusalem (1)
Kingston, Jamaica (1)
Kovno (1)
Lagos (1)
La Paz (1)
Lisbon (2)
Loanda (1)
London (17)
Lourenco Marques (1)
Malta (1)
Martinique (1)
Melbourne (6)
Mexico (29)
Monrovia (1)
Montevideo (1)
Nairobi (1)
Naples (11)
Nassau (1)
Ottawa (46)
Oslo (3)
Panama (3)
Paris (14)
Port au Prince (4)
Prague (1)
Rangoon (1)
Riga (1)
Rio de Janeiro (10)
Saigon (1)
St. John's (1)
St. Michael's (1)
San José, C.R. (1)
San Salvador (1)
Santo Domingo (2)
Seoul (1)
Shanghai (17)
Singapore (2)
Sofia (1)
Stockholm (3)
Suva (1)
Tahiti (1)
Tallinn (2)
Tananarive (1)
Tangier (2)
Tegucigalpa (7)
Teheran (2)
Tenerife, Canary Islands (2)
Tirana (1)
Tokyo (6)
Trinidad (3)
Tunis (1)
Valparaiso (11)
Vienna (1)
Warsaw (1)
Wellington (4)
Zurich (6)

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

Washington, D. C.

Information Desired Regarding Possible Discriminations Against American Products or Carriers.

1. Have you reason to believe that any foreign country discriminates in any way, directly or indirectly, against American products or carriers in such manner as to place American export trade in these products at a disadvantage in competition with similar or competing articles from other foreign countries in your district? Describe fully the discrimination of which you have knowledge.

2. Are there any concessions to foreign vessels or other carriers which are not equally granted to American vessels or other carriers?

3. Are there any other facts which in your opinion should be considered by the Tariff Commission as affecting equal treatment of American trade in foreign countries?

Please note that, in the language of the United States Tariff Act, discriminations of the kind referred to exist when any foreign country --

> "Imposes, directly or indirectly, upon the disposition in or transportation in transit through or reexportation from such country of any article wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States any unreasonable charge, exaction, regulation, or limitation which is not equally enforced upon the like articles of every foreign country"; or

> "Discriminates in fact against the commerce of the United States, directly or indirectly, by law or administrative regulation or practice, by or in respect to any customs, tonnage, or port duty, fee, charge, exaction, classification, regulation, condition, restriction, or prohibition, in such manner as to place the commerce of the United States at a disadvantage compared with the commerce of any foreign country."

High duties or restrictive measures imposed by foreign countries upon any American product are not discriminations if imposed equally upon the same or similar articles from all other foreign countries. Nor is it a discrimination under the provisions of the United States Tariff Act when heavier duties or other burdens are imposed upon some American product as compared with some other American article of similar nature or use. Such discrimination exists only when more favorable treatment, in any respect, is accorded by the importing country to any foreign product than to the similar and competing product of the United States.

Discriminations

Discriminations may result from tariff classifications, customs regulations or valuations, or from any other administrative regulation or practice, either by the national government or any of its branches, or by a local government, or by some agency authorized by any of these. Discriminations of this kind include cases in which an American product and a similar foreign product (or a foreign product capable of the same use) are classified, described, or treated in such a way as to levy in fact higher duties or other charges, or otherwise to place more burdensome exactions or restrictions upon the American product. As far as possible, the effects of any discrimination should be described. Does it exclude American products or only restrict their sale in the foreign market?

The following questions are intended to suggest lines of investigation which may disclose discriminations in fact against American products, whether intentional or incidental:

<u>Discrimination through specialization in tariff nomenclature.</u>

A. Are there any distinctions between "common", "medium" or "intermediate", and "fine" grades or qualities, or the equivalents of these, in the import tariff nomenclature, which in customs practice lead to the classification of American products at higher rates than those which are levied upon similar foreign products competing with them?

B. Are American products or peculiarly American export specialties so described in the import tariff by trade names, trademarked names, or otherwise, that higher rates of duty are levied thereon than upon similar foreign products competing with them?

C. Are there examples under operation of the import tariff to indicate that typical American export specialties pay relatively higher amounts of duty than similar competing foreign products, through their inclusion with such competing products in the same paragraphs or items of the tariff at identical specific rates, or through their classification under other paragraphs or items of the tariff at identical or higher specific rates?

<u>Tariff discrimination through method of establishing dutiable quantity.</u>

D. If in applying specific rates of import duty, or in applying what may be the equivalent of specific rates when percentage rates are based on fixed (official) valuations, any duties are levied in whole or in part or gross weight or on legal weight which is greater than commercial net weight, does this result in the collection of more duty upon a given net quantity of American products than upon the same net quantity of similar foreign goods competing with them? For example, the packing or containers of American goods might necessarily be heavier than, or different from, foreign goods which do not require such heavy or special packing because they are in a more advantageous shipping position with relation to a given market.

E.

E. In establishing the weight of goods upon which import duties are liquidated and collected, if tare allowances are fixed or are made in practice, is there any indication that this procedure is less advantageous to American products than to similar foreign products competing with them? For example, a small tare allowance, originally designed to cover goods not shipped from a great distance or goods not subject to rough handling en route, might result in comparative disadvantage to American goods which, because of the shipping distance, the time consumed in transit, the rough handling to which they are subjected, or because of the route by which they must enter the market, require heavier packing or special forms of packing. This situation might result in the collection of more duty on a given commercial net quantity of American products than upon a like net quantity of similar foreign goods competing with them.

Customs administrative discrimination.

F. Are there any administrative provisions, rulings, or practices, or other official decisions, under which American products or peculiarly American export specialties are so described, identified, or treated, that the customs classification, measurement, gauge, count, weighing or valuation thereof is disadvantageous to such products if compared with the corresponding customs treatment given to similar foreign products competing with them? (cif)

Discrimination through charges other than national import tariff duties.

G. Are there distinctions through the levy of any charges such as those enumerated below, whether levied and collected by national, municipal, provincial, departmental or any other political subdivision of government, or by agencies authorized by any of them, on imported goods, or on vessels, which fall more heavily upon American products or vessels than upon similar foreign products or foreign vessels competing with them? Or, are any such charges levied on imported goods or on vessels upon any selective basis which results in disadvantage to American products or vessels in comparison with foreign products or foreign vessels competing with them? The following are examples of various kinds and designations of charges levied on imported goods in different countries, besides national customs import duties, though in certain instances they may be collected at the customs offices: -

Automobile landing charges?

Internal Revenue	Crane
Sales	Winch
Consumption	Slingage
Municipal	Handling
State	Stowing
Provincial	Cartage
Departmental	Storage
Other regional	Warehousing
Port or harbor	Monument
Port improvement	Theatre
Dredging	Sanitation

Canal

Canal
River
Railway
Railway development
Road
Paving
Other public works
Light
Lighthouse
Semaphore
Tonnage
Lighterage
Charity
Hospital
Pension
Other public welfare
Analysis
Transit
Transshipment
Loan service
Refunding
Amortization
Interest

Please report and describe any taxes, surtaxes, dues or charges of any kind, other than national import tariff duties, to which imports are subject in your district.

H. If any duties, taxes, or other charges are levied on exports, directly or indirectly, under whatever name:

1. Are any such duties or other charges higher or in any respect different when the articles affected are exported to the United States than when shipped to other destinations?

2. Are any such duties or charges lower or different when the articles in question are shipped to the United States by vessels of other than American nationality?

3. Are any such duties or charges refunded or remitted, in whole or in part, upon proof that the articles affected have been in any way treated, processed, or manufactured within the country, or in any foreign countries or territory other than the United States?

4. Is there reason to believe that any such duties or charges are levied on the articles in question because they are largely or chiefly exported to the United States, and because such articles are free of duty or subject to low rates of duty upon importation into the United States?

No.1000.

TRIPLICATE

American Consulate,
Baghdad, Iraq.

October 21, 1929.

702

SUBJECT: IRAQ GOVERNMENT DECLINES TO GRANT EXEQUATUR TO NEW FRENCH CONSUL - EFFECT UPON AMERICAN RELATIONS.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

Commercial Office (A/C/C)
To Beirut
See 1930 Conf.
Conf. for def. 1/7/30
Beirut to Conf.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to previous reports from this Consulate concerning the Representatives of Foreign Governments in Iraq, and to report that on October 11, 1929, this office received a communication from the French Consulate, Baghdad, in which it was stated that Monsieur Paul Lepissier had been appointed Consul of France in Iraq, and that he had assumed the duties of his office on September 28, 1929.

702.51909/1

The Baghdad press had previously announced Monsieur Lepissier's arrival in Baghdad. He made an official call at this Consulate on October 9, 1929.

I understand that Monsieur Lepissier has been in the Near East in the service of his Government for a number of years. During or immediately after the war he was French Consul at Trebizond, Turkey. I am told that he has served in a consular capacity in Beirut, Syria, for about the past five years.

Prior to the assignment of Monsieur Lepissier to Baghdad, the French Consul was Monsieur R. Maigret. I understand that he has been transferred to Jeddah, Hejaz, but this Consulate has never received any official notice of his transfer.

Between

Between the time that the local press announced Monsieur Lepissier's arrival, and the time that this Consulate was notified that he had assumed charge of the French Consulate, Baghdad, I had heard unofficially that the Iraq Government had declined to grant him an exequatur. Later I was able to more or less confirm this rumor by means of an informal conversation with an official of the Iraq Government.

The reasons for the Iraq Government having declined to grant an exequatur to the new French Consul are reported to be as follows: (See also Consul Randolph's despatch No. 942 of August 22, 1929.)

In 1928 the Iraq Government approached the French Authorities in Syria in regard to the establishment of an Iraqian Consulate in Beirut. This year the Iraq Government officially requested permission to open a Consulate there. The French Authorities in Syria simply tabled the request, I am told, and declined to take any notice of the request. I have been assured by a member of the staff of the Royal Palace that the name of any prospective Iraqi Consul was not submitted to the French Authorities, but that Doctor Abdullah Damaloudji was a candidate for the position.

The adoption of the above mentioned attitude by the French in Syria is resented by the officials of the Iraq Government, and as a mark of retaliation they have refused an exequatur to the New French Consul in Baghdad.

The United States Representative at Baghdad is the only other member of the Consular Corps not holding an exequatur from the Iraq Government.

On Sunday morning, October 20, 1929, I learned that invitations had been issued the day before inviting

members

members of the Consular Corps to be present at the King's Harthiyah Estate at 4 P.M., Sunday, to greet His Majesty King Faisal's brother, Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordania. I did not receive such an invitation.

The Master of Ceremonies is Hussain Beg Afnan, with whom I am very well acquainted personally. I have been his guest at one shooting party, and I have been a guest in his home many times, formally and informally.

On Sunday morning I endeavored to get in touch with Mr. Afnan to enquire informally whether he had omitted to send me an invitation through error, or intentionally. I was not successful in this effort to communicate with him.

Sunday afternoon however, I went to the King's Harthiyah Estate, and was most cordially received. His Majesty King Faisal, Amir Abdullah, and Ex-King Ali made their appearances. All members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps were present, with the exception of the French Consul. The Acting High Commissioner, Air Vice Marshal, and senior English and Iraqi officials also attended.

On Sunday afternoons Mr. Afnan and his wife maintain an open house to their friends. After the reception at the Palace I called at Mr. Afnan's home, and during the course of the evening I asked if I had been persona non grata. Mr. Afnan assured me that I was decidedly most welcome; that he had wished to send me an invitation, but that he was not able to do so because of the present trouble in regard to the French Consul; that my presence had been noted by the officials concerned, and that they were very pleased with the action I had taken. He further assured me that the Iraq Government would be very pleased to have me attend future official functions, whether I received an

official

official invitation or not, and that he would be glad to extend an informal invitation to me on each such occasion.

I have taken the above mentioned action because I understand that formerly Consul Randolph had always attended official functions, and on most occasions he had received official invitations. I appreciate the fact that the relations between the United States Government and the Iraq Government have not been regularized, but I have no desire for the Iraq Government to establish a precedent of barring the American Representative from being present on official occasions while I am temporarily in charge of this office.

I believe that Mr. Afnan was sincere in his assurances, and that the Iraqi officials consider the attendance of the American Representative as an act of courtesy which they duly appreciate.

Unless I am otherwise instructed by the Department, I shall continue to attend official functions on the basis of the above understanding.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A true copy of the signed original.

Robert Y. Brown,
American Vice Consul in Charge.

File No. 702.
RYB/JNC.

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Extract from article entitled
"Le Mandat Français em Syrie"
by Robert de Beauplan
in issue of "L'Illustration" of March 16, 1929.

"Lorsque les troupes du général Allenby, au lendemain de l'armistice de Moudros, occupèrent le littoral syrien, elles y furent reçues avec enthousiasme par des populations à bout de souffrance. Le joug turc, aggravé par la domination allemande, avait été terrible, de 1914 à 1918. Des papiers, malencontreusement abandonnés lors de son départ par le consul de France à Beyrouth, M. Georges Picot, avaient compromis un certain nombre de militants patriotes qui entretenaient, avant la guerre, des relations secrètes avec la France. La répression avait été implacable."

The following subsequently appeared in
the issue of "L'Illustration" of April 20, 1929.

"Le Mandat Français en Syrie"

"Dans un article sur "Le Mandat Français en Syrie", paru ici même le 16 mars, je me suis trouvé écrire:

> 'Des papiers malencontreusement abandonnés lors de son départ par le consul de France à Beyrouth, M. Georges Picot, avaient compromis un certain nombre de militants patriotes qui entretenaient, avant la guerre, des relations secrètes avec la France.'

Le fait est exact dans sa matérialité, mais n'engage point la responsabilité personnelle de M. Picot. Lorsque fut consommée la rupture diplomatique de la Turquie et de la

France,

France, le 29 octobre 1914, et que le consul général de France dut précipitamment quitter Beyrouth, il se conforma à tous les usages en remettant les archives du consulat à son collègue - en l'espèce, le consul général des Etats-Unis - chargé de la défense de nos intérêts. Quelques mois plus tard, les Turcs sommèrent le représentant américain de leur livrer les papiers français et, par une faiblesse ou une aberration sans doute sans précédent dans les annales diplomatiques, ce fonctionnaire acquiesça. C'est cette injustifiable complaisance, pour ne pas l'appeler d'un autre nom, qui coûta la vie à une trentaine de Libano-Syriens, arrêtés et exécutés comme amis de la France. Plus chevaleresque, le vali turc de Beyrouth avait démissionné plutôt que de s'associer à cette violation inique du droit des gens. Quoi qu'il en soit, bien loin d'en vouloir à M. Georges Picot, les Syriens lui firent au contraire un chaleureux accueil quand, après l'armistice, il retourna parmi eux comme haut-commissaire et ils lui gardent encore un souvenir reconnaissant de l'aide efficace et prompte qu'il apporta aux populations désolées par la famine. Des milliers d'enfants lui doivent la vie. - R. de B."

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NOTE:- According to a personal letter recently received from Vice Consul D. F. McGonigal of this office, on leave in the United States, he brought these articles to the attention of the Chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs in the Department of State who said that the Department had means for counteracting published incorrect statements of the kind and he requested Mr. McGonigal to furnish him with a memorandum covering the matter which Mr. McGonigal did. Mr. McGonigal was assisted in preparing the statement by Consul General Hollis, on duty now at the Department of State, who had been on duty at Beirut as principal officer at the time of the occurrence of the above-mentioned incident.

According to a statement made to me by Mr. Ralph F. Chesbrough, now in Beirut as an official of the Department of Commerce, who was American Vice Consul at Beirut under Consul General Hollis, the French Consul turned over certain of his archives to the American Consulate General upon his

departure

departure from Beirut but a superficial examination indicated that there were other and more confidential archives. He was asked by Vice Consul Chesbrough whether he had any other archives whatsoever to turn over and he replied in the negative. It subsequently appeared that the confidential papers whose discovery by the Turkish authorities resulted in the execution of a number of Syrians were left by him in a safe in the wall of the Consulate; that they were discovered with the aid of a former dragoman of the French Consulate and that entry of the Consulate to obtain them by the Turkish authorities was made without the prior knowledge of the American consular authorities at Beirut and that consequently the Turkish authorities did not summons the American consular authorities to deliver the papers nor did the American authorities acquiescence in such a demand as is stated in the last article mentioned above. Mr. Chesbrough stated that he thought that a full report of the incident had been sent to the Department and that a report had also been made for the information of the French government but he and I were unable to discover copies in the archives here and he expressed the opinion that they had been destroyed upon the breaking off of American diplomatic relations with Turkey.

According to Mr. Joseph Audi of Beirut, the former French dragoman mentioned above wrote to "L'Illustration" and stated that the French Consul had been negligent in leaving the papers behind him upon his departure and that the American consular authorities were by no means concerned in their discovery by the Turkish authorities. "L'Illustration", however, replied to the effect that it was no longer interested in the matter. Mr. Audi promised to obtain for me copies of these communications but has not as yet been able to get in touch with the dragoman who is out of the city at present.

G L Brandt
George L. Brandt,
Consul in Charge.

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GLB:HT

Beirut, August 13, 1929.